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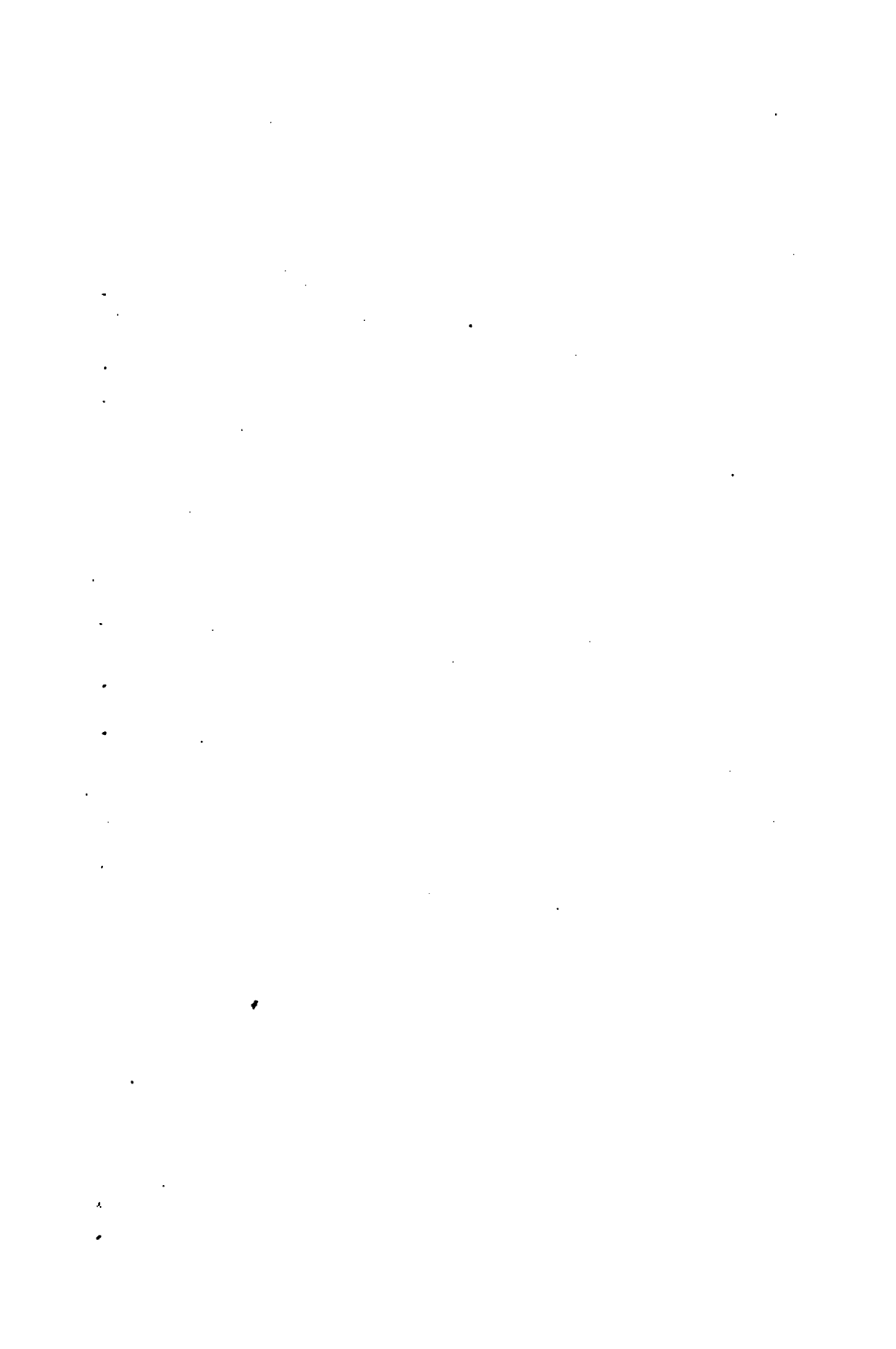
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FROM

Prof. G. S. Kittredge



1639-1900

HISTORICAL SKETCH
OF
MOTHER BROOK,
DEDHAM, MASS.

Compiled from various records and papers, showing
the diversion of a portion of the Charles
River into the Neponset River and the
Manufactures on the Stream,

FROM 1639 TO 1900.

ERASTUS WORTHINGTON.

DEDHAM, MASS.:
PRESS OF C. G. WHEELER.
1900.

HORACE E. WARE,
ATTORNEY AT LAW,
NO. 68 DEVONSHIRE ST.
ROOMS 8 & 9.

Boston, November 14, 190

Professor George Lyman Kittredge,
8 Hilliard Street,
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Professor Kittredge:-

I have forgotten whether I
ever handed you a copy of "Historical Sketch of
Mother Brook" by E. Worthington. Anyway, I have
just come across a few among some papers I was
looking over and I send you one of them. Please re-
tain even if I have already given you one.

Faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'H. E. Ware', written in a cursive style.



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US 13233.10.6

Prof. H. L. Kittredge

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF MILL CREEK, OR
MOTHER BROOK, DEDHAM, MASS.

Mill Creek, or as it has been latterly called, "Mother Brook," is a stream partly artificial and partly natural, diverting a portion of the waters of the Charles River into the Neponset River. From an historical point of view, it is interesting largely from the fact that it is supposed to be the first canal dug in America by the English settlers, having been started in 1639. It is of special local interest to the Town of Dedham from the fact that it was undertaken as a public enterprise by the Town and that it is perhaps the best monument of the early foresight and industry of the first settlers in Dedham. For 260 years it has been the source of the principal business interests of Dedham and is today of great value to the Town as fostering substantially all its manufactures.

The first settlement of Dedham was made in 1636. It was a necessity to the settlers to have some means of grinding their corn, and steps were immediately taken to utilize water power for this purpose.

Abraham Shawe, who came to Dedham in 1637 from Watertown, made at that time propositions to the Town for erecting a corn mill. The Town granted him 60 acres of land, provided he erect a water mill, and ordered that the millstones be brought from Watertown by the Town's people. Mr. Shawe, according to tradition, located his mill site upon the Charles River, near the bridge now leading over Dedham Avenue to Needham. The death of Mr. Shawe, in 1638, left this work uncompleted, and his son, Joseph Shawe, who removed to Weymouth shortly after his father's death, did nothing towards erecting a mill. This privilege was never developed.

In 1639, the need of a mill being very apparent to the settlers and the distance to the site elected by Abraham Shawe probably being considerable in those days, some foreseeing mind, on a Committee which the Town had appointed for the purpose of locating a mill, conceived the idea of diverting a portion of the waters of the Charles River into East Brook, as it was then called, which flowed into the Neponset River. The natural features of the territory lent themselves very easily to this plan as can be seen by inspection, and a very little labor was required to accomplish this object.

East Brook was a small stream which began about 100 rods East of Washington Street in the rear of what is now the Brookdale Cemetery and followed the present course of Mother Brook into the Neponset River.

On the 25th day of March, 1639, it was "Ordered yt a Ditch shalbe made at a Comon Charge through purchased medowe vnto ye East brooke yt may both be a ptieon fence in ye same; as also may serue for a Course vnto a water mill; yt it shalbe fownd fitting to set a mill vpon ye sayd brooke by ye Judgment of a workeman for yt purpose." They also provided that any man who should undertake to erect a water corn mill should have given him as much land as was previously voted to Abraham Shawe under like conditions, provided also that the mill should be ready to grind corn on the first of the 10th month. It appears that this work was done forthwith, and it will thus be seen that Mother Brook had its origin as a public enterprise by the Town of Dedham.

It appears that John Elderkin, who came from Lynn in 1641 to Dedham, was the first to accept the proposal of the Town in regard to building a water mill upon the stream thus formed, and grants of land were made to him. The first mill, a corn mill, was erected at this time near the point where Bussey Street now crosses Mother Brook. Mr. Don

G. Hill in his sketch of the first mill in Dedham, published in the 250th Anniversary in 1886, fixed the site of this dam at the East line of Bussey Street. In 1642, Mr. Elderkin sold one-half of his rights to Nathaniel Whiting, and the other half to John Allin, Nathaniel Aldis and John Dwight, who operated the mill until 1649, when Nathaniel Whiting became the sole owner.

In 1652, Nathaniel Whiting made a sale of his mill and all his town rights to John Dwight, Francis Chickering, Joshua Fjsher and John Morse for 250 pounds, but in the following year, 1653, he repurchased the same. During all this time there was only one mill upon the stream, owned and operated largely by Nathaniel Whiting.

In 1664, it being considered that a new corn mill was desirable upon the stream, leave was given to Daniel Pond and Ezra Morse to erect a mill upon Mother Brook above that owned by Nathaniel Whiting, the same to be finished before the 24th of June, 1665. This procedure by the Town called forth the remonstrance of Mr. Whiting who complained bitterly of what he considered the injustice done to his privilege by the establishment of the mill above. The controversy between Mr. Whiting and Mr. Morse continued for many years, and the town records show that considerable time was devoted by the Town fathers in the attempt to settle the differences. 2

In 1666, two years after Mr. Morse had established his privilege, the Selectmen endeavored to adjust the difficulties between the parties, admonishing Ezra Morse to "take care and be sure and not raise the water so that at the bridge it come to a stand and hinder the course of water of the Great River." It would appear that the dam operated by Mr. Whiting was not so tight as it might be from the fact that at the same time they suggested to him that he repair his dam before he should again complain for the want of water.

Both Mr. Morse and Mr. Whiting were charged with the care of the Creek to keep it clear at this time.

It may be of interest to note the paternal care which the Town fathers then endeavored to exercise over the inhabitants. In the same orders just enumerated, the Selectmen advised Messrs. Whiting and Morse "to liue together in a way of neighborly loue and doe each as they would haue the other doe by themselves." This admonition does not seem to have had much effect. Nathaniel Whiting brought suit against Ezra Morse, into which suit an attempt was made to bring the Town, without success. The suit was afterwards lost by Mr. Whiting. Renewed complaints and trouble being had on this score and Nathaniel Whiting bringing suit again against Ezra Morse, attempts were made by the Town to settle the difficulty. Finally, in 1699 it was considered advisable to remove the Morse dam entirely and as compensation to Mr. Morse he was granted land and a privilege in what is now called Norwood, thus removing him entirely from the stream. Perseverance on the part of Mr. Whiting seems to have had its reward.

The mill occupied by Mr. Morse stood near where Maverick Street crosses Mother Brook.

During this controversy between Messrs. Whiting and Morse, Jonathan Fairbanks and James Draper had requested the privilege of the Town of building a fulling mill below the Whiting Mill upon Mother Brook, in 1682. Having in mind probably Mr. Whiting's perseverance, the Town associated Mr. Whiting with James Draper in the enterprise instead of Jonathan Fairbanks. They constructed a dam and mill at the point where Mill Lane crosses Mother Brook, this being the third privilege upon the stream, and the descendants of Nathaniel Whiting held this mill privilege for over 180 years. After the removal of the Morse dam in 1699, there remained two privileges on the stream, both under the control of the descendants of Nathaniel Whiting.

In 1700 the Whiting mill was burned. In order to encourage the rebuilding of the same, the Town loaned Mr. Whiting 20 pounds for one year towards the erection of another mill, which mill was erected.

The upper dam, occupied by Mr. Morse from 1664 to 1699, did not, however, remain vacant. Some time between 1700 and 1800 a leather mill was built there by Joseph Lewis, the date of the establishment of this industry not being definitely determined.

In 1807, Samuel Lowder, Jonathan Avery, Rueben Guild, Calvin Guild, Pliny Bingham, William Howe and others were incorporated as the Norfolk Cotton Manufactory. They built a large wooden mill at the upper privilege on the site of the Lewis Leather Mill. For a while they were very successful. The annual meetings of the stockholders appear to have been occasions marked by festivities, and the corporation was high in the esteem of the townspeople. The close of the War of 1812, however, left them with a large stock of goods on hand which marketed at ruinous prices. The mill was sold in 1819 to Benjamin Bussey for a sum far below cost.

This marked the advent of cotton manufacturers upon the stream and was practically the first start in using Mother Brook for extensive manufactures other than the local needs of the Town and the surrounding country, in grinding corn.

The use of the stream for manufacturing purposes by the Norfolk Cotton Manufactory evidently induced others to locate upon the stream. In 1821, the Dedham Worsted Company was incorporated, principally by William Phillips and Jabez Chickering. This Company purchased the privilege near Bussey Street from the Whitings, thus coming into possession of the first original privilege on the stream. Owing to the failure of Mr. Chickering, nothing was done by the Dedham Worsted Company in the way of manufac-

tures, and Mr. Bussey purchased the mill in 1824, thus acquiring the second mill privilege upon the stream.

The fourth privilege upon the stream, the one immediately below the third which was situated at Mill Lane, was a part of the property acquired by Nathaniel Whiting and James Draper with the grant of 1682. What use was made of it by them is uncertain. It appears that the right reverted to the Town, for in 1787 the Town again transferred it to Joseph Whiting, Jr., Paul Moses and Aaron Whiting, for the sum of 6 pounds. At this time a building was erected for blocking copper cents, on this privilege, being used for this purpose a short time only. Herman Mann afterwards fitted up this building for the manufacture of paper. In 1804, George Bird purchased the property and carried on the manufacture of paper. At about the same time another mill was erected at this privilege for the manufacture of wire, for which Ruggles Whiting of Boston was the agent. These mills were connected and used the same wheel. Mr. Bird's mill being burned in 1809, it was rebuilt with a new race-way and foundation. In 1814, the manufacture of wire was discontinued, and the factory was used for making nails. In 1819, George Bird became the owner of the whole privilege including land and buildings, and it was then used for paper manufacture.

In 1823, Frederick A. Taft formed a partnership with George Bird, and their factory at the 4th privilege was converted into a cotton factory using the machinery of the Norfolk Cotton Factory, which occupied the first privilege up to 1819. In this year a new corporation was created under the name of the Norfolk Manufacturing Company, in which John Lemist of Roxbury and Frederick A. Taft were associated as proprietors. Mr. Bird leased the land, privilege and buildings to the corporation for ten years. In 1830, the corporation purchased the whole of the mill property. In 1832, Ezra W. Taft purchased the interest of Frederick A.

Taft, and a few years later Mr. Lemist disposed of his interest to James Reed. The Corporation prospered under Mr. Taft's management, and in 1835 the stone mill which now stands upon the site was erected and was supplied with new machinery for the manufacture of cotton goods. Mr. Taft continued to be the agent and manager of the corporation for about 30 years.

In 1814, the Dedham Manufacturing Company was incorporated and erected a fifth dam upon the stream at that portion of Dedham known as Readville, which is now a part of Hyde Park. We have thus at this date, 1814, the five privileges upon the stream which now exist. 5

The diversion of the Charles River in part through this stream began to cause trouble at an early date. The value of the stream to the manufacturers was great, and it is undoubtedly true that the original channel was deepened and widened from time to time by the efforts of those owning privileges upon the stream. The waters upon the meadows along the Charles River appear to have been a subject of great interest to the townspeople during the latter part of the 17th century. The mill owners upon the Charles River below also began to find fault with the diversion of the water of the Charles River through Mill Creek. An appeal was made to the Commissioners of Sewers provided for under the Colonial laws, and Eliphalet Pond, Joseph Williams and Joseph Mayo were appointed Commissioners.

In 1767, a report was made upon the removal of the obstructions which caused the overflowing of lands in Roxbury, Newton, Dedham and Needham, which report is on file in the records at the State House. It appears by this report that these Commissioners fixed a sill in Mill Creek at a certain height, which report was agreed to by the meadow proprietors and mill owners in Dedham and the mill owners of Newton and Watertown. The rights of the mill owners becoming so important in their minds as to require united

action on their part to maintain these rights in the Charles River, they obtained an Act passed in 1797, being Chapter 77 of the Acts of the Year 1797. (This Act was approved March 3, 1798.) This incorporated the proprietors of mills upon Mill Creek and Neponset River and gave them power to unite as a corporation for the purpose of maintaining and preserving their rights in Mother Brook. A short time prior to this, the proprietors of mills on Charles River had been incorporated for a similar purpose under Chapter 45 of the Acts of the Year 1797. (This Act was approved February 12, 1798.) Undoubtedly the action of the Mill Creek owners was occasioned by the uniting of the Charles River owners.

The question of the division of the waters of the Charles River between the mill owners on Mill Creek and Lower Charles River immediately became prominent, and the two corporations of mill owners on the respective streams petitioned the Supreme Court in March, 1809, for the appointment of Commissioners of Sewers at that time to determine the proper amount of water to be diverted through Mill Creek from the Charles River. Elijah Brigham of Westboro, Jonas Kendall of Leominster and Loammi Baldwin of Cambridge were appointed by the Court in October, 1809. Their report which was filed in the Court records by the Charles River owners states that the sill placed in Mill Creek by the Commission of 1767 had been removed and that they could not determine its location. They proceeded to fix the proportion of water in Charles River at Elliot's mills on the Newton Upper Falls to that in Mill Creek as three to one in dry seasons, and they placed sills in Mill Creek and a line of stakes in the Charles River. This report was dated September 30, 1813. For some reason this report was not presented for filing or acceptance to the Court until some 12 years after. The Proprietors on Mill Creek objected to it on account of certain evidence which

they claimed had not been presented in regard to the report of 1767 and of the lapse of time which had been allowed before the report had been filed. The Court sustained their objections on account of new evidence and the report was set aside by procedure in 1826.

The proprietors of mills on Mill Creek and Neponset River had formally organized, September 1st, 1809. At this time, the first privilege on this stream below Charles River was owned by the Norfolk Cotton Manufactory. The next privilege was owned by Hezekiah Whiting, the third by Moses Whiting and the heirs of Aaron Whiting, the fourth privilege was owned by the Boston Iron and Nail Factory and by George Bird, while the fifth privilege had not been constructed.

The owners of mills upon the Neponset River, below the junction of Mother Brook with their stream, were united with the Mill Creek owners in the corporation and shared equally with them in the care and maintenance of the stream. The first care of the proprietors was to provide for the securing of the just proportion of Charles River in dry seasons and they provided that the expense of the corporation's doings should be divided among the mill owners benefited in proportion to the valuation of the properties benefited, as determined by a committee chosen from their number.

It also appears that the first privilege, then owned by the Norfolk Cotton Manufactory, was still a source of disagreement between the owners upon the stream. Complaint was made that the height of the dam, maintained at this privilege was such that the free flow of water from the Charles River through the stream was not maintained and that the privileges below suffered in the amount of water thereby.

In 1811, the proprietors chose a committee to investigate the question of the height of this dam. Thus was the original contention as formerly existing between Nathaniel

Whiting and Ezra Morse again renewed. The committee appointed in 1811 accomplished nothing, but the question was agitated from time to time until 1824, at which time the Norfolk Cotton Manufactory had come into the hands of Benjamin Bussey. At this time, the committee effected an agreement with Mr. Bussey which provided that the cap-sills of the dam should be reduced in height 12 inches, that the width of the passage for the waste water should be 17 feet and 1-2 of an inch, that the width of the passage of the rolling dam should be 11 feet and 1 inch, such distances to remain fixed. The level of the water was fixed by a small drill hole on a large rock in the westerly margin of the mill pond about 120 feet up stream from the foundation of Mr. Bussey's factory and by a similar drill hole in another rock on the easterly side of the mill pond about 135 feet from the top of the rolling dam. These marks are still extant and govern the height of water at this point. The committee reported that the changes agreed upon had been made in their presence, and they recommended that the agreement to be drawn up in accordance with these terms should be filed in the Norfolk Records. No such filing was made, however, and when at a later date Mr. Bussey was asked to produce this agreement, it could not be found. It is entered, however, in the records of the Proprietors of Mill Creek.

Thus was finally fixed the height of the dam at the first privilege.

In 1825, the proprietors assembled to consider the question of determining the proper amount of water to be diverted into Mill Creek and to consider the report made by the Commissioners of Sewers in 1813. By a Committee the proprietors examined the river where the Sewer Commissioners had placed certain stakes, at Cheeney's ford. This point is located at the place where the mud-sills now exist, in Newton. They reported that the stream had been excavated so as to allow the water to pass around this point.

A Committee was chosen in 1829, the report of the Sewer Commissioners in 1813 having been set aside by the Court, to confer with the Proprietors of Mills on Charles River. This Committee reported in the same year, having examined all papers in relation to the matter. They procured copies of these papers and filed them with the records of the corporation.

Further conferences were had in 1830 and 1831 with the Charles River Proprietors endeavoring if possible to make an agreement. Finally an agreement was entered into between the Proprietors of Mills on Mill Creek and Neponset River and the Proprietors of Mills upon Charles River, on December 3, 1831, and filed in the Norfolk Records, which fixed the proportion of water as one-third to the owners of mills on Mill Creek and two-thirds to the owners upon Charles River. This agreement is still in force today and governs the division of water which shall be allowed to flow into Mother Brook.

The sills were fixed in both streams and provision was made whereby either party could have an adjustment made of these sills, if they considered themselves aggrieved in the amount of water, by due procedure.

The two upper privileges continued in the hands of Benjamin Bussey until 1843, who was a man of excellent business capacity, when the property was sold to J. Wiley Edmunds. Mr. Bussey erected woolen mills at both privileges with machine shops, dye houses and dwellings, which today exist substantially as then constructed. Since that time the manufacture of woolen goods has been carried on at these privileges.

Messrs. Edmunds & Colby succeeded J. Wiley Edmunds, in 1853, under the name of the Maverick Woolen Company, with Thomas Barrows of Dedham as agent and were succeeded by the Merchants Woolen Company, incorporated in 1863. The Merchants Woolen Company owned these privileges until January, 1895, when the purchase of both privileges

and the buildings adjacent was made by Edward D. Thayer, Jr., of Worcester, who owns and operates these mills for the manufacture of woolen goods at the present time.

The third privilege, owned by the Whiting heirs, was purchased under an assignment of William Whiting to Messrs. Colburn & Endicott by Messrs. Edmunds & Colby, in 1863, at which time the Merchants Woolen Company was formed. Messrs. Edmunds & Colby conveyed to Thomas Barrows in 1864, and Thomas Barrows conveyed to Merchants Woolen Company in 1872. The Merchants Woolen Company conveyed to Royal O. Storrs & Company in 1875 and rebought the premises again in 1883, after the assignment of R. O. Storrs & Company in 1882. During this time, a saw and grist mill was operated at this privilege, and their operation was continued under the management first of Charles C. Sanderson during 1868, and then by Goding Brothers, who vacated the premises in 1885. Thus at this time departed from the stream a corn mill which was the first object of its construction, after having been used for this purpose over 240 years. Since that time, this third privilege has not been used as a water power, and it has now been merged into the fourth privilege with one fall.

The fourth privilege, upon which the new stone mill was built in 1835, was sold by the Norfolk Manufacturing Company, of which Mr. Ezra W. Taft was the manager, to Thomas Barrows, in 1863. Mr. Barrows enlarged the mill and entered upon the manufacture of woolen goods, which business he continued until 1872, when the property was sold to the Merchants Woolen Company together with the privilege already referred to. The Merchants Woolen Company sold this fourth privilege to Royal O. Storrs and Frederick R. Storrs in 1875, who continued the manufacture of woollens until 1882 when they failed and the property was again purchased by the Merchants Woolen Company.

In 1894, the Merchants Woolen Company sold both the

third and fourth privileges with all buildings to J. Eugene Cochrane of Malden who conveyed it in 1897 to the Cochrane Manufacturing Company, in whose hands it is today. The manufacture of carpets is carried on at the present time, together with a smaller mill for the coloring of handkerchiefs. They are operated under the name of the Norfolk Mills. Extensive improvements have been made by the Cochrane Manufacturing Company at this privilege, the most marked of which is the uniting in one fall of the third and fourth privileges, thus doing away with one of the original privileges on the stream.

The fifth privilege, started by the Dedham Manufacturing Company in 1814, has been operated as a cotton manufactory from the outset. The Dedham Manufacturing Company sold the property in 1867 to a company of men composed of Tully D. Bowen, Earle P. Mason, Henry Waterman, John A. Taft, Stephen Harris, Cyrus Harris, Joseph Woods, John A. Adams and Benjamin Sibley, who in turn conveyed it to the Smithfield Manufacturing Company of Rhode Island, in 1875. The original buildings were of wood. The Smithfield Manufacturing Company erected brick mills and made improvements and mortgaged the whole property to the Rhode Island Hospital Trust Company. Under a mortgagee's sale, this property passed through the hands of Royal C. Taft to B. B. & R. Knight in 1879, in whose hands the property still stands, being operated, however, under the name of the Manchaug Company. The Knight people rebuilt the dam, put in new wheels and made extensive improvements shortly after their purchase.

It is of interest in view of occasional disputes which have arisen upon the stream between the manufacturers themselves with regard to their heights and falls to refer to a report made by Jabez Coney, Jr., to the proprietors in July, 1837. This gives the whole fall of Mother Brook as

42 feet 7 7-10 inches beginning with the top of the dam at the first privilege at the height fixed in 1824 by the drill hole in the rock. This report is as follows:—

BENJAMIN BUSSEY.

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1st. Top of dam to bottom of wheel | 5 ft. 6 4-10 in. |
| 2nd. To bottom of wheel at
new brick mill | 10 ft. 10 1-10 in. |
| This wheel below the hole in
rock at Whiting's dam | 1 5-10 in. <u>9 ft. 11 6-10 in.</u> |
| B. Bussey's whole fall from top of upper dam
to top of Wm. Whiting's dam | 15 ft. 6 in. |

L. WHITING.

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| From the top of dam or hole in the rock above
the flashboards of Norfolk Manufacturing
Company or hole in the rock below his
grist mill | 8 ft. 11 9-10 in. |
|--|-------------------|

NORFOLK MANUFACTURING COMPANY.

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| From top of flashboards to
bottom of wheel | 10 ft. 5 5-10 in. |
| Loss by restriction to hole in
rock | 1 5-10 in. 10 ft. 4 in. |
| From bottom of this wheel to top of flashboards
of Dedham Manufacturing Co. | 1 ft. 2 in. |

DEDHAM MANUFACTURING COMPANY.

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| From top of flashboards to bottom of wheel | 7 ft. 9 8-10 in. |
| To flashboards at Sumner's | 1 ft. 1 1-10 in. 42 ft. 7 7-10 in. |

These figures are today maintained in substance. The drill hole in the rock above the first privilege is still extant. The hole in the rock at Whiting's dam has been found but is buried up at the present time by filling in the mill pond near Mill Lane. The hole in the rock below the Whiting dam referred to still exists and has been found, although flooded now nearly nine feet by the raise in water at the privilege below.

It is worthy of note at this point that by special agreement George Bird during his occupancy of his fourth privi-

lege fixed the height of water between himself and Lemuel Whiting and Moses Whiting by a deed in 1828 which located the drill hole found by Mr. Coney.

At the Dedham Manufacturing Company, a post with a bolt set in it was established to indicate high water, which undoubtedly existed at the time the Dedham Manufacturing Company owned the privilege and was probably fixed there at practically the same time the privilege was built. When the new dam was built by B. B. & R. Knight, this post was filled in, but it still stands and can be found by excavation.

Thus by successive steps, and often by controversy, the mill privileges upon Mill Creek are now upon a substantial footing as regards the definition of their privileges and rights. They are entitled to one-third of the flow of Charles River, definitely fixed by agreement with the Charles River owners in 1831 and maintained through nearly 70 years in this proportion. The heights and falls upon the stream determined first by Jabez Coney, in 1837, with a definiteness for record are today maintained, and the marks found at that time are of earlier date in many instances. Many of them exist and can be found today.

It is the aim of this sketch to present facts for record, and it is largely a compilation from records and research through the records of the Town as published by Don Gleason Hill. Exactly how the Town's interest in the stream ceased does not appear as a matter of record, unless by the final selling of rights in the stream, in 1682, to Joseph Whiting and others the Town finally disposed of all their rights.

The "History of Dedham," published by Erastus Worthington, grandfather of the writer, in 1827, and the shorter sketch published by Erastus Werthington, son of the first mentioned by that name and father of the writer, in the "History of Norfolk County," have been valuable in the

compilation of these records. A portion of this sketch has been taken quite liberally from these works. "Mann's Annals of Dedham," the Historical Address of Erastus Worthington, second of that name, at the 250th Anniversary of the Town of Dedham in 1886, the Sketch of the First Mill, in the same volume by Don Gleason Hill, and the Records of Proprietors of Mill Creek and Neponset River have also been referred to, having abstracts made therefrom. A portion of the work has been done in the Registry of Deeds for Norfolk County.

It is hoped that this sketch will be of service in regard to questions which may arise touching upon Mill Creek, or Mother Brook, as it is now called.

ERASTUS WORTHINGTON.

Dedham, Mass., October 25, 1900.



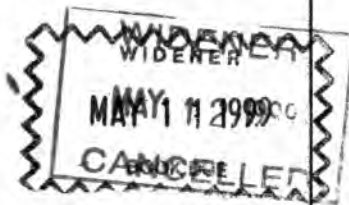


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